

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU
SUBJECT: BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL BRUSSELS MEETING SEEN AS FAVORABLE

REF: ATHENS 12453

1. THE DECEMBER 11 MEETING IN BRUSSELS BETWEEN FOREIGN
MINISTERS BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL WAS AN IMPORTANT NEWS
ITEM IN GREECE OVER THE WEEKEND. COVERAGE WAS GENERALLY
POSITIVE. MOST STORIES FOCUSED ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT
THE MIXED COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WOULD MEET AT THE END OF
JANUARY 1977 AND THAT THE BILATERAL TALKS ON THE AEGEAN
AIR SPACE WOULD RECONVENE "IN THE NEAR FUTURE" AS EVIDENCE
THAT THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO HAD GONE WELL.

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HOWEVER, INDEPENDENT KATHIMERINI DID SOUND A SOMEWHAT

SOUR NOTE IN ITS EDITORIAL WHICH COMMENTED ON THE NEED TO CONTINUE TALKS WITH THE TURKS EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NO GREAT HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME, AND COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR'S ORGAN, RIZOSPASTIS, RAILED THAT A "NATO" SOLUTION WAS BEING CONCOCTED.

2. THERE WAS EARLY ANTICIPATION IN SOME QUARTERS THAT THE SCHEDULED MEETING WOULD NOT HAVE A HAPPY OUTCOME BECAUSE OF REMARKS BY CAGLAYANGIL DURING AN EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE COMPLAINED OF GREECE'S ARMING THE AEGEAN ISLANDS AND NOTED THAT SUCH ACTIONS WOULD BE FUTILE SINCE TURKEY COULD OCCUPY THE ISLANDS WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS IF IT WISHED (BUT OF COURSE IT DID NOT). UNNAMED GOG SOURCES HAD THEN BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT CAGLAYANGIL'S STATEMENTS ON THE ISLANDS WERE CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE BERN "PROCEDURES" AGREEMENT IN WHICH BOTH SIDES PLEDGED TO REFRAIN FROM DIMINISHING THE PRESTIGE OF THE OTHER SIDE (PARA 8 OF THE AGREEMENT). NEVERTHELESS, FOLLOWING THE BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL MEETING GOG OFFICIALS EVENTUALLY CHOSE TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE BY SAYING THAT "WHAT MR. CAGLAYANGIL SAID ABOUT THE AEGEAN ISLANDS IS UNACCEPTABLE, SINCE HE KNOWS FOR WHAT REASONS THEY HAVE BEEN FORTIFIED..." THE SAME OFFICIALS UNDERLINED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD DIRECTED HIS COMMENTS TO A DOMESTIC AUDIENCE IN TURKEY WHERE THE INTERNAL SITUATION "COMPELS ITS LEADERS FROM TIME TO TIME TO BECOME PROVOCATIVE, VIOLATING AGREEMENTS OF BEHAVIOR WHICH THEY SOUGHT THEMSELVES, SUCH AS THE BERN AGREEMENT."

KUBISCH

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